

BETTER ENFORCEMENT NEEDED TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS

(Continued from Page 1)

drunken murderers could not be restored to life by punishment of the drinker, no matter how severe that punishment might be made. The remedy for drunken driving must be one that prevents injury to life and limb and prevents the destruction of property. Two things can be done to apply this remedy. Both should be done.

Arrest Drunks Before They Drive

The first remedy is the arrest of drunks before they drive. Too many officials are responsible for accidents by their failure to arrest drunks. If intoxicated persons are placed under arrest it will not only prevent them from making a deadly weapon out of an automobile but will prevent them from using other means to endanger the lives and property of other persons. The automobile is only one of the developments of modern civilization that makes the actions of each affect the safety and lives of other individuals. But the automobile emphasizes the importance of placing persons who have lost self-control through drink under control of the law so as to prevent injury to innocent persons.

Better Enforcement Best Code

The second remedy for drunken driving, and the fundamental remedy, is better prohibition enforcement. The alternative to better prohibition enforcement is the return of the licensed liquor traffic. No one seriously considers this alternative in view of the automobile traffic of the present time. With open saloons as in the old days the tragedies of drink in connection with automobiles would be a hundred times greater. The problem therefore is to reduce lawless drinking to a minimum, because unless the automobile is to go, the legalized liquor traffic can never again be tolerated in this country. Every citizen and

Lax Enforcement Chief Cause

every official in every county should be brought to realize that lax law enforcement is the primary cause of drunken driving. When a drunken driver does damage it means that some official failed to arrest the drunk before he became a driver and that some official failed in his duty to suppress liquor lawlessness. The exceptions to the above statement are cases of intoxication when the drinker has legally acquired his intoxicants. Some drunken driver becomes intoxicated through drinking private stocks acquired before prohibition. Others become intoxicated by liquor acquired legally through the prescribing of whisky by a physician. Legally caused cases of drunken driving will gradually diminish. Drunken driving will aid in directing attention to the dangers of the drink evil even when violations of the law are not involved.

Beer and Wine Most Dangerous

A study of the drunken driving evil shows that in a great proportion of the accidents caused by mixing alcohol and gas the alcohol was consumed in the form of beer or wine. The railroads learned long ago that the beer drinker or the wine drinker was the most dangerous locomotive engineer. He would drink just enough to spoil his judgment and control but not enough to become visibly intoxicated and therefore barred from his cab. In these days of automobile driving the situation is similar. Drivers so drunk that they stagger are not usually the ones that drive automobiles. It is the drivers who have consumed just enough to spoil their judgment and prevent control of their machines who are responsible for the most accidents caused by alcohol. "Judge, I

was not drunk, I only drank a little beer," or "Judge, I was not drunk, I had taken only a little wine," is very frequently the defense when the drunken driver is taken to court after wrecking some other automobile besides his own or perhaps causing the death of someone else on the highway.

Beer Propaganda Influences Drivers

In view of the number of accidents and casualties caused by beer and wine in connection with automobile driving, the propaganda for these drinks must be held largely responsible. Drivers who read the Chicago Tribune, for example, are made to believe that beer and wine do no harm. This encourages the consumption of intoxicants in this form and doubtless leads to many automobile accidents that would otherwise never occur.

"Automobiles or booze, which? is a question that presents itself not only to the individual drivers, but to every community and the entire nation. Arresting of drunks will prevent many automobile accidents, but the final remedy must be the total annihilation of the illegal liquor traffic."

BOOTLEGGERS PAY \$8,000 TO SCHOOL FUND OF COUNTY

State's Attorney Turns Over More Than \$5,000 to Treasurer at One Time

(Sparta Plaindealer-News)

Claims that prohibition enforcement in Randolph county is costing the taxpayers a lot of money, proved to be without foundation one day last week when state's attorney, L. F. Hachman, turned over to County Treasurer Abe Harris one check for \$5,005, representing fines paid by bootleggers since last March. This settlement with the county treasurer was made in preparation for the state's attorney's regular report to the circuit court when that body convenes at Chester on September 22.

In addition to the sum of \$5,005 about \$1,800 still remains to be collected from convicted bootleggers who are paying their fines on the installment plan. When these fines are paid there will be a total of about \$10,000 in the state's attorney's fund in Randolph county.

Wet sympathizers have been spreading the report that the county does not receive any of the bootlegging fines collected in county court. This is a rank misstatement of facts. The state's attorney collects the fines, turns this money over to the county treasurer who creates torney's fund. From this fund is paid the

THE MOTOR MENACE

(The Vanguard, New Zealand)

Increasing numbers of fatalities and accidents with motor cars due to drivers in an intoxicated condition make the drinking motor driver a menace.

A man does not need to be visibly drunk when driving a car in order to become a danger to all on the road.

Probably many accidents not resulting in police prosecutions are due to the driver's keenness being dulled by a "spot" that he thinks does him no harm.

state's attorney's salary and the balance remaining goes into the school funds of the county. To date fines collected from bootleggers have not only paid all of the state's attorney's salary during this four-year's term, but a balance of about \$8,000 now remains in the state's attorney's fund. It will thus be seen that bootleggers pay the salary of the state's attorney and also contribute to the upkeep of the schools.

The prohibition act is the only law on the statute books which pays for its own enforcement.

WOMEN WILL ISSUE VOTERS' GUIDE

The Illinois League of Women Voters, 308 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, is preparing to issue, the end of September, a special de luxe, elections edition to their monthly bulletin. It will be filled with pre-election information of great value to the voters of Illinois.

It will contain pictures of presidential and vice-presidential candidates, brief histories of the political parties, national party platforms, stories of the outstanding issues in the national campaign; it will have pictures and records of gubernatorial candidates as well as of candidates for Congress and General Assembly; stories on state platforms and state issues; road bond and gateway amendments referenda; a series of graphic charts; a job analysis of each office to be filled, etc. It will be a valuable handbook of information which the average voter may use as a background on which to base his or her political decisions.

Public opinion has crystallized rapidly in favor of prohibition and law enforcement in the United States. The activities of the bootleggers and poison venders are becoming more hazardous every day. Their profits are smaller, their risk greater and their patrons fewer in number.—Editorial, Washington Court House (Ohio) News.

BOOZE OR HUMAN LIFE

(California Liberator)

The appalling loss of human life in automobile accidents finally aroused San Francisco to action. Civic organizations, the press and leading citizens joined in a movement for the protection of life.

That movement proceeded along two lines: (1) A demand for the rigid enforcement of the motor vehicle law by the police and the courts; (2) A campaign of education explaining the provisions of the law and arousing the citizens to a sense of their responsibility for law enforcement.

This campaign has materially decreased the loss of life. It has made the police enforce the automobile law better; it has taught the citizens to obey and respect the law.

Police reports show that booze is one of the principal causes of loss of human life in automobile accidents.

A campaign directed by the same organizations to require enforcement of the prohibition law by the police and courts, and to teach the public to obey and respect that law, would remove a principal cause of the loss of human life.

The situation disclosed requires San Francisco to choose between the sacrifice of booze and the sacrifice of human life. Which will it choose?

WOMEN RALLY TO FIGHT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IN STATE AND NATION

(Continued from Page 1)

movements being carried forward by the organized womanhood of America. This campaign is under the direction of the Women's National Committee for Law Enforcement of which Mrs. Henry Peabody is chairman. A mailing card being sent out by this committee presents the prohibition enforcement situation as follows:

The Battle Lines

THE PLAN OF THE ENEMY

1. To build up a Congress, even if it takes ten years, that will repeal the 18th Amendment. (Liquor interests of Europe will help with funds).

2. To pass as soon as possible one of the 59 beer bills now before Congress, thus bringing back breweries and beer and making prohibition a farce.

3. To repeal all state enforcement codes. Such repeals place an impossible burden of enforcement on the federal government. (Today one state has repealed its code, New York. Two states have no code, Maryland, Massachusetts. In Massachusetts enforcement will be on ballot No. 4 as Referendum No. 3).

TO ROUT THIS PLAN ON THE ENEMY

1. Get every last candidate for Congress pledged to keep the definition of what constitutes an intoxicating liquor where it is now, at 1/2 of 1 per cent alcohol, experience in the states having shown this to be the only enforceable definition.

2. See that your Congressmen and Senators push for the immediate passage next December of the Cramton Bill, establishing a separate Prohibition Bureau and putting prohibition agents under Civil Service, thus removing prohibition enforcement from politics. This bill passed the House in the last session but did not reach a vote in the Senate.

3. ELECT DRYs for all state officers, men and women pledged to pass, to keep and to strengthen state enforcement codes, thus freeing for the fullest possible activity all state officers and putting backbone into our courts.

4. Be active in municipal elections, seeing to it that your town has a dry mayor, dry alderman. This little municipal end is just as important for purposes of enforcement as the big federal end. Later, women must take up the smuggling situation.

Now focus on electing DRY LEGISLATURES! A DRY CONGRESS! ON TO THE POLLS!

League Has Woman's Department

The Anti-Saloon League of Illinois is giving fullest cooperation to various movements of women in support of enforcement through its woman's department of which Mrs. Lena B. Mathes is superintendent. One of the recent great victories to which the Woman's Department of the League contributed much was the nomination of Mrs. Rena Elrod of the 25th district in Chicago. Prohibition enforcement is dependent upon maintaining a dry majority in the state legislature and in Congress and electing officials who will enforce prohibition laws. With the women of the state and nation informed as to the situation and aroused to the importance of using their power effectively at the ballot box, things do not look very promising for the lawless liquor traffic in this country.